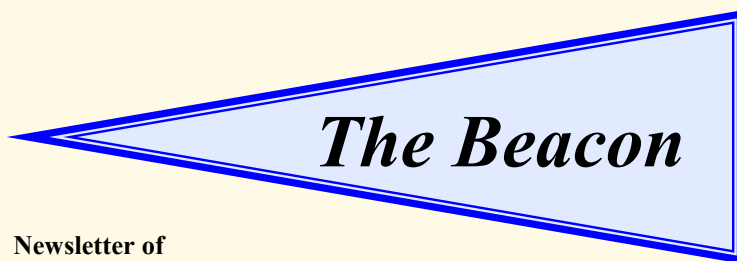
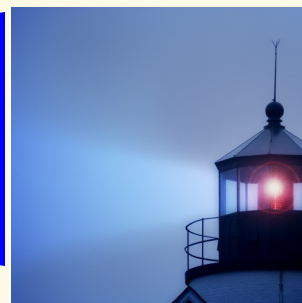




*Supporting infants,
children, and youth with
combined vision and
hearing loss*



Newsletter of
The Wisconsin Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project
Volume 3, Issue 2: October 2013



Mom's Retreat is a Big Success!

Contributed by Brenda Eberle, Parent of Brittany

August 23—25th, WDBTAP moms were invited to a special retreat just for them. The recent Regional Family Meeting became a time of relaxation, contemplation and restoration for the moms who attended. Creating personal journals, trying some yoga, and crafting ornaments were all on the menu for the retreat, as well as getting to know one another and share some of the every day joys and stresses that make up the life of a mom with a deaf-blind child. Our Family Specialist, Brenda, shares a few of the experiences—and lessons learned—at the retreat:

“What a great weekend we had at the Mom's getaway! Jolene did a great job finding activity leaders that were so caring, patient, and interested in each of us.

At first, everyone seemed a little nervous getting to know each other but after starting the activities, each of us opened up and relaxed. Making our journals and making clay ornaments with Lynelle was a great way to express our inner artists and open the connections between all of the attendees.

For me, Jane the yoga master was the best. I had never tried yoga before but she made it so easy and showed me how I can be calm and help myself to be the great mom that I want to be, even when things are tough.

I hope more parents will consider attending WDBTAP meetings and gatherings in the next year. Parents should remember: you are not alone and you would be surprised to find how many other families have similar hopes and dreams, as well as struggles, and how much it helps to share with one another.

*“Jane really made
us realize the power
of positive thinking
and good energy.”*

**Thank you to the moms for taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity and
thank you to the families that made it possible!**

Tips and Tools Reaps Results

Contributed by Shannon,
mother of Emmett

I've attended numerous professional conferences and workshops as a professional, but it was a new experience attending the WDBTAP Tips and Tools: Processing Skill Development For Young Children who are Deaf-Blind and Deaf with Additional Disabilities workshop as a parent.

Almost four years ago, I was blessed with my son Emmett, who was born with multiple congenital abnormalities. Throughout these last several years, we have been getting diagnosis after diagnosis, trying to put together a very intricate puzzle that is Emmett. He has abnormal chromosomes, agenesis of the corpus callosum, hydrocephalus, a feeding tube, a bilateral hearing loss, various sensory processing issues, along with overall global delays.

“Networking opens doors to resources, knowledge, and understanding”

Needless to say, I was looking forward to this conference in order to gain some insight into my son's complex sensory needs. I walked away more than satisfied! I feel like I have a much better understanding of the human sensory systems, and a better understanding of sensory processing and the dysfunction that can occur – especially with already compromised systems. Although it felt overwhelming at first, I definitely have some more tips and tools to try with my son, and some added information to share with Emmett's Early Childhood teachers and therapists.

I am grateful that this opportunity arose and that I was able to attend the WDBTAP Tips and Tools workshop. In addition to the information given by the presenters, I gained so much from the social networking at the conference. Whether as a professional or a parent, networking opens doors to resources, knowledge, and understanding.

Overall, this conference was a positive experience in so many ways!



.....and we encourage YOU to attend a Tips and Tools workshop in the future. Details will be in upcoming issues of *The Beacon*.

-WDBTAP staff





ANNUAL STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL / FAMILY CONFERENCES

“Renew, Re-Energize, Relax”

*For professionals working with, and families of,
children who are hard of hearing, deaf,
deaf-blind, and deaf with additional disabilities*

SAVE THE DATE!

Family Conference, March 7-9, 2014

Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc, WI

This exciting and affordable conference offers

- ♦ *Informative keynote presentations and a wide variety of workshops*
- ♦ *Networking opportunities with other professionals / families from around the state*
- ♦ *Well-supervised and fun-filled children's activities while parents attend workshops*
- ♦ *Opportunities for children and families to socialize and build friendships*
- ♦ *Accessible workshops for Deaf, Hmong and Spanish speaking individuals*
- ♦ *WDBTAP will be offering scholarships that will assist with the registration/lodging costs!*

*Laurie Nelson, Family Conference Coordinator
(608) 822-3756; laurie.nelson@wesp-dhh.wi.gov*

Bookmark www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/wesp/ for updated information.



Information You Can Use.....on the newly designed National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NDBC) website

Submitted by WDBTAP Staff

Here are a few interesting articles from the NDBC newsletter for families:

New website:

NCDB's New Website In June, NCDB launched a new, feature rich website designed to facilitate collaborative work across our community. Users can make a profile, bookmark resources, connect with families and service providers, and contribute to conversations in the name of building knowledge and improving practice. Make a profile and join the conversation.

Transition to Adulthood

Making a change from one setting to another, or transitioning from one phase of life to another, can be challenging for anyone. It can be particularly difficult for youngsters who rely on routine and predictability to make up for the information they can not access through vision and hearing. Explore information about how to plan for successful transitions for students who are deaf-blind.

Videos Feature Family Voices

The National Family Association for Deaf-Blind has published Deaf-Blind Awareness, a new video series designed to raise awareness about deaf-blindness. Featuring families talking about their experiences, the videos are in both English and Spanish.

You can find the NDBC newsletter here » http://documents.nationaldb.org/products/enews/NCDB_eNews-aug13.htm

Calendar of Events

November 1

Registration opens for Professional
and Family Conferences

www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/wesp

March 7-9, 2014

Statewide Family Conference
"Renew, Re-Energize, Relax"

Olympia Resort

Oconomowoc, WI

Wisconsin Deaf and Hard of Hearing Outreach

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